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## THE BARNACLE GOOSE.

BY G. N. LAWRENCE.

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DURING the winter I was much surprised to see at the store of Mr. J. Wallace, Taxidermist, New York, a fine specimen of this species, which he had recently mounted. On inquiry, he stated that it had been sent from Currituck Sound, North Carolina, by a friend of mine, Mr. Elias Wade, Jr., who was there on a shooting excursion. Mr. Wade wrote that he considered it very rare, and wished it carefully preserved.

As it was of much importance to ascertain all the facts concerning it, I immediately wrote to Mr. Wade, for more precise information as to whether it was alone or with others of the same species, or in company with any other kind of geese, etc. I have received his reply, and as his letter gives the desired information, also other interesting facts connected with the locality where the specimen was killed, I have thought best to add a transcript of it.

“CURRITUCK CLUB HOUSE, Dec. 15th, 1870.

Your favor of the 9th inst., was duly received, and I thank you for the information contained in it relative to the goose I sent to be mounted. I regret that I can learn nothing here, about the character or habits of the bird, no one, even among the oldest gunners, having ever seen or heard of anything like it before, and being of course entirely at a loss to account for its presence or origin. This region being a great rendezvous for geese, for time out of mind tens of thousands making it their winter home, it is remarkable that nothing of the kind has ever before been seen by the oldest people. It, of course excited great curiosity among the natives, and gave rise to all sorts of absurd conjectures relative to its origin, mongrel character, etc.

The bird was killed on the 31st day of October, on our grounds, within 600 yards of the club house, from a blind where we had fifteen or twenty live geese decoys set out, and it was evidently attracted by them so far as to bring it within shot, when it was killed on the wing before alighting among the decoys. It came up unaccompanied by any other bird, and whether it would have alighted or not, with the decoys, had it not been shot, of course cannot be told.

Our locality is in Currituck Sound, about 60 miles south of Norfolk, and 30 north-east of Roanoke Island. We have nearly

all the varieties of ducks, which frequent the waters in the neighborhood of Long Island, the Chesapeake, etc., except the brants, which are rarely seen here. The water of the Sound from its head, some forty miles north of us, and for a considerable distance below us, is very nearly fresh, being very slightly brackish, and is everywhere filled with a species of grass, which serves as food for the birds, and for which they seem to have a great fondness. They begin to congregate the last of September, and remain, usually, from the first to the middle of March, furnishing generally the finest kind of shooting during the whole interval.

E. WADE, Jr."

The first announcement of the occurrence of this goose in North America, was made by Prof. Baird, in the *NATURALIST* for 1868 (Vol. II, p. 49). A specimen was received at the Smithsonian Institution, from Mr. B. R. Ross, who obtained it in the Hudson's Bay region. Its acquisition was considered by Prof. Baird a most important one, as thereby its claim to be considered American was fully established. A second specimen now having been procured on the Atlantic coast, thus bringing it within the limits of the United States, it is deemed worthy of record.

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## SOME RELICS OF THE INDIANS OF VERMONT.

BY GEORGE H. PERKINS, PH.D.

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THOUGH more rarely found now, Indian relics were formerly very abundant in many parts of Vermont. Especially favored in this respect are the borders of streams emptying into Lake Champlain, and the higher lands near by, as well as the shores of the lake and its islands. In a few localities the number of domestic implements found indicate the site of a village, or at least of a frequently occupied camping ground. Near some of these, burying grounds have been found, in which the dead were placed in a sitting posture according to the Indian custom.

Remains of ancient fortifications have been found, near which multitudes of flint stones and arrow and spearpoints strewed the ground. Here and there the number of unfinished articles, as well as the trimmings of stone, show where they were manufactured.